

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1 to 12. (Cancelled).

13. (New) A nuclear fuel assembly comprising:

nuclear fuel rods;

a supporting skeleton having two nozzles;

guide tubes interconnecting the nozzles; and

spacer grids for holding the rods, wherein the grids are secured to the guide tubes, the assembly further comprising

at least one lattice reinforcing device for reinforcing the support skeleton, the lattice reinforcing device being disposed between two spacer grids and being secured to the guide tubes.

14. (New) The assembly according to claim 13, wherein the nuclear fuel rods are disposed in a substantially regular array, and wherein the lattice reinforcing device does not extend between peripheral rods.

15. (New) The assembly according to claim 14, wherein the lattice reinforcing device does not extend between the peripheral layer of rods and an adjacent layer of rods.

16. (New) The assembly according to claim 13, wherein the lattice reinforcing device does not have an arrangement for mixing a cooling fluid that is to flow through the nuclear fuel assembly.

17. (New) The assembly according to claim 13, wherein the lattice reinforcing device does not have an arrangement for holding nuclear fuel rods.

18. (New) The assembly according to claim 13, wherein the lattice reinforcing device comprises two sets of crossed plates that are secured to one another, the plates defining between them cells for receiving guide tubes and cells for receiving nuclear fuel rods.

19. (New) The assembly according to claim 17, wherein the lattice reinforcing device comprises:

two sets of crossed plates that are secured to one another, the plates defining between them cells for receiving guide tubes and cells for receiving nuclear fuel

rods, and wherein the cells for receiving nuclear fuel rods are of dimensions greater than dimensions of the rods so as to receive the rods with clearance.